

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group
Division of Integrated Health Systems

August 13, 2003

Mr. Michael Deily
Division Director
Division of Health Care Financing
Utah Department of Health
288 North 1460 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 -3108

Dear Mr. Deily:

I am pleased to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Utah's request for a 2-year continuation of its Medicaid Prepaid Mental Health Plan (PMHP) authorized under 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act (the Act). This approval provides for a waiver of the following sections of the Act: 1902(a)(1) Statewide, 1902(a)(23) Freedom of Choice, and 1902 (a)(4) in order to permit Utah to continue to operate the PMHP waiver program from December 27, 2003, through December 26, 2005.

The decision to approve the renewal of this waiver is based on evidence submitted to CMS demonstrating that the State's proposal is consistent with the Medicaid program and will meet all statutory and regulatory requirements for assuring beneficiaries access to care, quality of services, waiver cost-effectiveness for section 1915(b) waiver programs, and will not restrict emergency services. Please note that as part of the review for this renewal application, the Utah PMHP program has been found to be in compliance with the Medicaid Managed Care regulations, which is effective on August 13, 2003.

The CMS would like to remind the State that the new 1915(b) cost effectiveness test will be required for subsequent renewals or amendments of this waiver. The State should ensure that it has begun reporting expenditures for this waiver on the CMS-64 no later than the quarter ending September 30, 2003. The CMS Central Office and Regional Office staff are available to provide technical assistance in this area should you need it.

In order to allow sufficient time for review, the State's next waiver renewal request must be made 90 days before the expiration date of the waiver. Therefore, Utah must submit a request for renewal on or before September 26, 2005.

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We appreciate the State's efforts in continuing this program and wish you continued success in the next waiver period. If you have any questions, please contact Gregg Ukaegbu in the CMS Central Office, at 410-786-5133 or Mary Marchioni in the CMS Denver Regional Office, Division of Medicaid, at (303) 844-7094.

Sincerely,

/s/

Theresa A. Pratt
Director

cc:

Peggy Clark, Central Office
Mary Marchioni, Region VIII